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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

May 18, 1994

IN REPLY REFER TO:

RECEIVED

JUN 17 1994

Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Senator Craig:

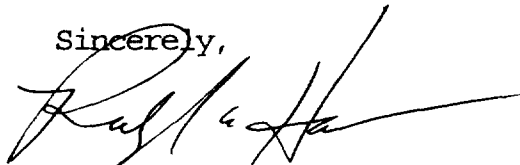
This is in reply to your letter of January 3, 1994, on behalf of your constituents Mr. Lane Williams, Vice President of the Rural Telephone Company, and Mr. Michael Martel, of the Midvale Telephone Exchange. Your constituents are concerned about the problems faced by western rural telephone companies in serving small rural communities under the competitive bidding provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA). Your constituents also called our attention to the comments filed by the Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and the Western Rural Telephone Association ("the Western Alliance"), a group of telephone companies in western states. Your letter was referred to me as Chief of the Personal Communications Systems (PCS) Task Force for the Commission.

On March 8, 1994, the Commission adopted a Second Report and Order in Docket No. 93-253. That proceeding established general menu of tools designed to assist those entities, including rural telephone companies, identified by the Congress as requiring special consideration by the Commission (the "designated entities"). I am pleased to note that the Commission has adopted several of the proposals advocated by the Western Alliance.

The Commission, for example, adopted bidding credits and installment payments for use by designated entities, both of which were suggested by the Western Alliance in its comments. The Commission also stretched out its down payment requirements for designated entities, again consistent with the Western Alliance's comments.

We are confident that the measures we have adopted will help enable rural telephone companies to provide personal communications services to rural customers. We also share your commitment to the provision of equal and universal access of communications services to all Americans no matter where they live.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Haller
Chief, PCS Task Force

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LARRY E. CRAIG

IDAHO

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(202) 224-2752

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1203

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AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

January 3, 1994

Lou Sizemore
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

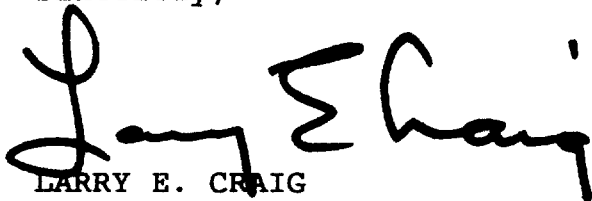
Dear Ms. Sizemore:

Enclosed are letters I received from Lane Williams and Michael Martell regarding the proposed FCC rule on Personal Communication Service (PCS) technology (docket 93-314). As you know, rural communities which depend on the service of small telephone companies have distinct needs that differ from those of densely populated urban areas.

I would appreciate your careful consideration of these comments as you consider the adoption of the proposed regulations.

Thank you for your assistance.

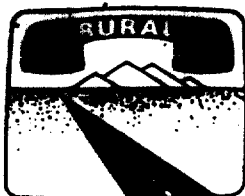
Sincerely,



LARRY E. CRAIG
United States Senator

LEC/tmo

encl.



RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

704 WEST MADISON AVENUE

P.O. BOX 969 • GLENNS FERRY, IDAHO 83623

(208) 366-2614 FAX (208) 366-2615

November 17, 1993

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

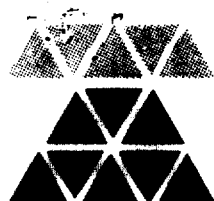
Dear Senator Craig:

As a rural telephone company serving your constituents, we request that you contact the Federal Communications Commission by November 24, 1993 urging them to adopt the recommendations made in the November 10, 1993 comments filed by Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and Western Rural Telephone Association (the "Western Alliance"). These comments point out the unique problems faced by western rural telephone companies, and the solutions needed to ensure Personal Communications Service ("PCS") to rural areas as mandated by Congress. You should have already received a letter from these telephone associations, providing you with details of their proposals and asking for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Martell
Vice President

MJMspb



MIDVALE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, INC.

P.O. BOX 7
(208) 355-2211

2205 KEITHLEY CREEK ROAD
1-800-462-4523

MIDVALE, IDAHO 83645
FAX (208) 355-2222

Nov. 18, 1993

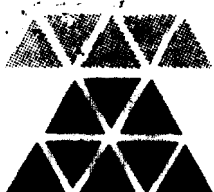
Senator Larry Craig
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1203

Dear Larry:

Please find inclosed comments which I have sent to the Federal Communications Commission. I would appreciate your contacting the Commission to explain the consequences of Market areas so large that small companies can't participate and large companies will never serve because of the sparseness of the population. This PCS technology, because of the smallness of rural communities, could provide regular telephone service instead of the present buried physical wires we presently use. We would still have to use "hard wire" technology for people living outside of communities, Crane Creek, Dixie areas for example, but think of people who live in Midvale being able to take their phone to the store, the Post Office, to church. That's what PCS might do for small rural communities and the companies who provide their telephone service.

Thanks,

Lane Williams



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Nov. 18, 1993

Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As a rural Telephone Company, we ask your consideration of the November 10, 1993 Joint Comments filed by Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and Western Rural Telephone Association in the Competitive Bidding rulemaking proceeding (PP Docket No. 93-253). In addition to the situations described in those comments, our company faces a situation now which could use PCS as a substitute for buried plant in providing local exchange services. We expect to construct systems beginning in the summer of 1994 which will serve three small remote mountain communities North and West of Boise, Idaho.

As we understand the proposed rules, our company which serves 670 customers in 5 exchanges located in three states will be eliminated from using the PCS technology. Both the size of the licensed area and the big bucks competitors will eliminate us. Since our new exchanges, with populations of about 50 families, are included in the same area for PCS as Boise, how can we expect to compete with a US West or GTE in a market area that includes a city of 125,000 population?

Small communities depend on you, the Commission, to guard our rights and insure that we are able to participate in the telecommunication technology. Don't be swayed by dense urban populations that have competitors vying to serve them. We are anxious, as a telephone company, to provide modern telecommunications to the residents of Yellow Pine and Warren, Idaho who are so rural that they are snowed in all

winter. You hold the key for service for them and others like them in the West not for competitive services but for any modern service of any kind.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to respond before your decision is made.

Sincerely,

Lane R. Williams, Manager
Midvale Telephone Exchange, Inc.

cc Sen. Larry Craig